Utility Relocation for Road Construction: A Utility Perspective

Presented to Purdue Road School
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VECTREN SNAPSHOT

• Formed March 31, 2000
• Merger of Indiana Energy, Inc. (Indiana Gas) and SIGCORP (SIGECO)
• Dayton Power and Light - gas assets October 31, 2000
• Vectren Energy Delivery of...
• Indiana - currently over 650,000 gas and 134,000 electric customers
• Ohio - 315,000 gas customers

VECTREN ENERGY DELIVERY Service Territory

INDIANA INFRASTRUCTURE

• Natural Gas
  – over 14,500 miles of main in 59 counties
• Electric
  – over 4,000 miles of transmission and distribution lines in 9 counties
• Indiana Code - no more than 12,000 miles of road in State highway system

WHY USE THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY?

• Cost
• Feasibility
• Economic Development
• IC 8-20-1-28
POTENTIAL CONSTRUCTION SCENARIOS

• No Utility Conflict
• Conflict/Utility relocates within existing public right-of-way
• Conflict/Utility relocates within new public right-of-way
• Conflict/Utility relocates to new private easement

NO UTILITY CONFLICT

• Was lateral and vertical location established?
• Will road construction, drainage, or other improvement designs/plans change?

UTILITY RELOCATION WITHIN EXISTING PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY

• Final Grade Established?
• Right-of-Way Staked?
• Other Utilities?

UTILITY RELOCATION WITHIN NEW PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY

• Has the new right-of-way been acquired?
• Is it accessible?
• Final Grade Established?
• Right-of-Way staked?
• Other Utilities?

UTILITY RELOCATION TO NEW PRIVATE EASEMENT

• Has State/County acquired new Public?
• Was/Is condemnation an issue?
• Have other utilities acquired exclusive easements?
• What is the condition of the proposed easement?

“WHY HAVEN’T THE UTILITIES MOVED YET?”

• Design and planning
• Material lead times
• Construction scheduling
• Timing of final road improvement plans
• Right-of-Way staking
• Final grade established
• Other utility issues?
UTILITY COORDINATION

• Inaccurate/incomplete utility information
• Contractor availability
• Formal and informal meetings
• Examples
• Develop a utility coordination process

STATE/COUNTY

• Chooses not to grow the public right-of-way
• Delays defining/identifying new public right-of-way
• Does not ensure that right-of-way is staked
• Does not communicate realistic and accurate expectations
• Keep utilities engaged

WHAT ABOUT CONTRACTORS?

• Dig-ins
• Construction plan changes
• See the big picture

NEW (AND NOT-SO-NEW) IDEAS

• INDOT/Counties
  – communicate accurate information
  – make sure designs adequately accommodate all utility facilities and appropriate working clearances
  – plan early and be flexible
  – enforce approved relocation plans
  – pursue state/county acquisition of utility easements outside public right-of-way
  – be sure we get final design drawings
  – employ SUE

NEW (AND NOT-SO-NEW) IDEAS

• Contractor
  – Call Before You Dig
  – Help us help you

COOPERATIVE EFFORTS...
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